

FOUR STRINGS AROUND THE WORLD



Violinist **Irina Muresanu** has conceived **Four Strings Around the World** as a celebration of diverse musical cultures through the unifying voice of the **violin**, an omnipresent instrument all around the globe. The dazzling program presented in a multi-media format, features works by prominent composers inspired by the folklore of Eastern and Western Europe, the Middle East and Asia, Africa, South and North America.

FOUR STRINGS AROUND THE WORLD REPERTOIRE

(click on the links to see videos)

Music from Eastern and Western Europe:

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| George Enescu (1881- 1955)
<i>(Romania)</i> | - <u>Airs in Romanian Folk Style</u> |
| Rodion Shchedrin (b. 1932)
<i>(Russia)</i> | - <u>Gypsy Melody</u> |
| Dave Flynn (b. 1977)
<i>(Ireland)</i> | - <u>Tar Éis an Caoineadh'</u> |
| Niccolò Paganini (1782-1840)
<i>(Italy)</i> | - <u>Caprice No. 24</u> |
| Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962)
<i>(Austria)</i> | - Recitativo and Scherzo, Op. 6 |
| J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
<i>(Germany)</i> | - <u>Ciaccona in D minor</u> |

Music from the Middle East and Asia, Africa, South and North America:

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| Reza Vali (b. 1952)
<i>(Iran)</i> | - <u>Calligraphy no. 5</u> |
| Shirish Korde (b. 1945)***
<i>(India)</i> | - Vák (with electronic drone) |
| Bright Sheng (b. 1955)
<i>(China)</i> | - <u>The Stream Flows</u> |
| Fred Onovwerosuoke (b. 1960)***
<i>(Nigeria)</i> | - Abeni and Bayaka |
| Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)
<i>(Argentina)</i> | - <u>Tango Étude No. 3</u> |
| Miguel del Aguila (b. 1957)
<i>(Uruguay)</i> | - Cutting Limes |
| Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate (b. 1968)***
<i>(Chickasaw Nation citizen)</i> | - Oshta (Four) |
| Mark O'Connor (b. 1961)
<i>(United States)</i> | - <u>The Cricket Dance</u> |

*** Written for Irina Muresanu and the "Four Strings Around the World" project

ACCLAIM

Crafted to address audiences of any age and cultural background in a “recital/theatrical lecture” setting, this project is the recipient of the prestigious **NewMusic USA** grant and the University of Maryland’s **Creative and Performing Arts Award**. The **CD recording** of *Four Strings Around the World* was released in 2018 by the Grammy-award winning label **Sono Luminus** to great critical acclaim:

“One of the best solo CDs I have ever heard” **The Whole Note**

“On all levels, a very impressive release” **Limelight Magazine**

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- ❖ Music of composers from 5 continents: **Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and North America**
- ❖ Works inspired by the folklore of: Romania, Ireland, Persia, India, China, Argentina, Nigeria, Native-American and Bluegrass and Gypsy music employing various violin techniques
- ❖ Three new works written specifically for this program by Indian composer Shirish Korde, Native American composer Jerod Impichchachaaha’ Tate and Nigerian composer Fred Onovwerosuoke
- ❖ Theatrical set-up with costume props (see photos)
- ❖ Multi-media component of short videos with original music and images designed to immerse the listener and enhance their understanding of various cultures
- ❖ A wide variety of sonic effects created by the different tonal and modal systems
- ❖ Rich educational component, perfect for younger and outreach audiences



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The virtuosic stamina and originality of this program was noted by critic Keith Powers: “*Four Strings Around the World* not only extends the superbly talented Muresanu in new directions, but offers a glimpse into variations of violin technique and approach that would only be gleaned by attending concerts in various country fairs, Irish pubs, campfire gatherings and parlors. The only thing these works had in common was a kind of magical virtuosity the Muresanu regaled the audience with in a most facile manner..” Keith Powers, **Cape Cod Time**

PROGRAM NARRATIVE:

Irina Muresanu’s musical journey starts in Romania - her native country - with the fiddling buoyancy of pieces by Romanian, then Russian and Irish composers (**Enescu, Shchedrin, Flynn**). The inimitable Viennese spirit embodied by **Kreisler** is present in between the towering summits of the solo repertoire: **Paganini's Caprice no. 24** and the **Bach Chaconne**.

The sonic exploration continues through works of composers with musical roots in Persian (**Reza Vali**), Chinese (**Bright Sheng**) and Indian (**Shirish Korde**) cultures Each of these pieces uses a different modal system, creating a wide variety of sound effects. In this segment of the program, the violin embodies its ancestors and cousins, such as the Arab rebab or the Chinese erhu.

After a brief detour in Africa (**Fred Onovwerosuoke**), we travel to South America (via an **Astor Piazzolla Tango Étude**) and then to the North American landscape as expressed in Native American and bluegrass music (**Jerod 'Impichchaachaaha' Tate** and **Mark O'Connor**).